

Common Stock that is not registered in the stock transfer records of GTE at the Effective Time, a certificate or certificates representing the number of whole shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock into which such shares of GTE Common Stock shall have been converted shall be issued to the transferee together with a cash payment in lieu of fractional shares, if any, in accordance with Section 2.7 hereof, and a cash payment in the amount of Pre-Surrender Dividends, if any, in accordance with Section 2.5 (b) hereof, if the Old Certificate therefor is surrendered as provided in Section 2.5 hereof, accompanied by all documents required to evidence and effect such transfer and by evidence of payment of any applicable stock transfer tax. The whole shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock to be delivered to such holder shall be delivered in book entry form, unless such holder shall timely elect in writing to receive the certificates representing such shares.

SECTION 2.7 — *No Fractional Share Certificates.* (a) No scrip or fractional share certificate for Bell Atlantic Common Stock will be issued in certificated or book entry form upon the surrender for exchange of Old Certificates, and an outstanding fractional share interest will not entitle the owner thereof to vote, to receive dividends or to any rights of a stockholder of Bell Atlantic or of the Surviving Corporation with respect to such fractional share interest.

(b) As promptly as practicable following the Effective Time, the Exchange Agent shall determine the excess of (i) the number of whole shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock to be issued and delivered to the Exchange Agent pursuant to Section 2.5 hereof over (ii) the aggregate number of whole shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock to be distributed to holders of GTE Common Stock pursuant to Section 2.5 hereof (such excess being herein called "Excess Shares"). Following the Effective Time, the Exchange Agent, as agent for the holders of GTE Common Stock, shall sell the Excess Shares at then prevailing prices on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"), all in the manner provided in subsection (c) of this Section 2.7.

(c) The sale of the Excess Shares by the Exchange Agent shall be executed on the NYSE through one or more member firms of the NYSE and shall be executed in round lots to the extent practicable. The Exchange Agent shall use all reasonable efforts to complete the sale of the Excess Shares as promptly following the Effective Time as, in the Exchange Agent's reasonable judgment, is practicable consistent with obtaining the best execution of such sales in light of prevailing market conditions. The Exchange Agent shall, out of the proceeds from the sale of the Excess Shares, pay all commissions, transfer taxes and other out-of-pocket transaction costs, including the expenses and compensation of the Exchange Agent, incurred in connection with such sale of the Excess Shares. Until the net proceeds of such sale or sales have been distributed to the holders of GTE Common Stock, the Exchange Agent will hold such proceeds in trust for the holders of GTE Common Stock (the "Common Shares Trust"). The Exchange Agent shall determine the portion of the Common Shares Trust to which each holder of GTE Common Stock shall be entitled, if any, by multiplying the amount of the aggregate net proceeds comprising the Common Shares Trust by a fraction the

numerator of which is the amount of fractional share interests to which such holder of GTE Common Stock is entitled (after taking into account all shares of GTE Common Stock held at the Effective Time by such holder) and the denominator of which is the aggregate amount of fractional share interests to which all holders of GTE Common Stock are entitled.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this Section 2.7, GTE and Bell Atlantic may agree at their option, exercised prior to the Effective Time, in lieu of the issuance and sale of Excess Shares and the making of the payments contemplated in such subsections, that Bell Atlantic shall pay to the Exchange Agent an amount sufficient for the Exchange Agent to pay each holder of GTE Common Stock an amount in cash equal to the product obtained by multiplying (i) the fractional share interest to which such holder would otherwise be entitled (after taking into account all shares of GTE Common Stock held at the Effective Time by such holder) by (ii) the closing price for a share of Bell Atlantic Common Stock on the NYSE Composite Transaction Tape on the first business day immediately following the Effective Time, and, in such case, all references herein to the cash proceeds of the sale of the Excess Shares and similar references shall be deemed to mean and refer to the payments calculated as set forth in this subsection (d). In such event, Excess Shares shall not be issued or otherwise transferred to the Exchange Agent pursuant to Section 2.5 (a) hereof or, if previously issued, shall be returned to Bell Atlantic for cancellation.

(e) As soon as practicable after the determination of the amounts of cash, if any, to be paid to holders of GTE Common Stock with respect to any fractional share interests, the Exchange Agent shall make available such amounts, net of any required withholding, to such holders of GTE Common Stock, subject to and in accordance with the terms of Section 2.5 hereof.

(f) Any portion of the Exchange Fund and the Common Shares Trust which remains undistributed for six months after the Effective Time shall be delivered to Bell Atlantic, upon demand, and any holders of GTE Common Stock who have not theretofore complied with the provisions of this Article II shall thereafter look only to Bell Atlantic for satisfaction of their claims for Bell Atlantic Common Stock, any cash in lieu of fractional shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock and any Pre-Surrender Dividends.

SECTION 2.8 — *Options to Purchase GTE Common Stock.* (a) At the Effective Time, each option or warrant granted by GTE to purchase shares of GTE Common Stock which is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be assumed by Bell Atlantic and converted into an option or warrant to purchase shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock in such amount and at such exercise price as provided below and otherwise having the same terms and conditions as are in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time (except to the extent that such terms, conditions and restrictions may be altered in accordance with their terms as a result of the transactions contemplated hereby):

(i) the number of shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock to be subject to the new option or warrant shall be equal to the product of (x) the number of shares of GTE Common Stock subject to the original option or warrant and (y) the Exchange Ratio;

(ii) the exercise price per share of Bell Atlantic Common Stock under the new option or warrant shall be equal to (x) the exercise price per share of the GTE Common Stock under the original option or warrant divided by (y) the Exchange Ratio; and

(iii) upon each exercise of options or warrants by a holder thereof, the aggregate number of shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock deliverable upon such exercise shall be rounded down, if necessary, to the nearest whole share and the aggregate exercise price shall be rounded up, if necessary, to the nearest cent.

The adjustments provided herein with respect to any options which are "incentive stock options" (as defined in Section 422 of the Code) shall be effected in a manner consistent with Section 424(a) of the Code.

(b) At the Effective Time, each stock appreciation right ("SAR") with respect to GTE Common Stock which is outstanding and unexercised immediately before the Effective Time shall be converted into an SAR with respect to shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock on the same terms and conditions as are in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time, with the adjustments set forth in subsection (a) of this Section 2.8.

SECTION 2.9 — *Restricted Stock.* At the Effective Time, any shares of GTE Common Stock awarded pursuant to any plan, arrangement or transaction, and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be converted into shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock in accordance with Section 2.2 hereof, subject to the same terms, conditions and restrictions as in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time, except to the extent that such terms, conditions and restrictions may be altered in accordance with their terms as a result of the transactions contemplated hereby.

SECTION 2.10 — *Certain Adjustments.* If between the date hereof and the Effective Time, the outstanding shares of GTE Common Stock or of Bell Atlantic Common Stock shall be changed into a different number of shares by reason of any reclassification, recapitalization, split-up, combination or exchange of shares, or any dividend payable in stock or other securities shall be declared thereon with a record date within such period, the Exchange Ratio shall be adjusted accordingly to provide to the holders of GTE Common Stock and Bell Atlantic Common Stock the same economic effect as contemplated by this Agreement prior to such reclassification, recapitalization, split-up, combination, exchange or dividend.

ARTICLE III — CERTAIN ADDITIONAL MATTERS

SECTION 3.1 — *Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of Bell Atlantic.* At the Effective Time and subject to and upon the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware ("DGCL"), Bell Atlantic shall cause the Certificate of Incorporation of Bell Atlantic and the Bylaws of Bell Atlantic to be amended and restated to incorporate the provisions set forth in Appendices I-A and I-B hereto, respectively. Such amendment and restatement of the Bell Atlantic Certificate of Incorporation and amendment and restatement of the Bell Atlantic Bylaws are referred to herein as the "Certificate Amendment" and the "Bylaws Amendment," respectively.

SECTION 3.2 — *Dividends.* Each of GTE and Bell Atlantic shall coordinate with the other the declaration of, and the setting of record dates and payment dates for, dividends on GTE Common Stock and Bell Atlantic Common Stock so that holders of GTE Common Stock do not (i) receive dividends on both GTE Common Stock and Bell Atlantic Common Stock received in connection with the Merger in respect of any calendar quarter or (ii) fail to receive a dividend on either GTE Common Stock or Bell Atlantic Common Stock received in connection with the Merger in respect of any calendar quarter.

SECTION 3.3 — *Headquarters.* GTE and Bell Atlantic agree that immediately following the Effective Time the headquarters of Bell Atlantic shall be located in New York, New York.

SECTION 3.4 — *Corporate Identity.* GTE and Bell Atlantic agree that at the Effective Time, the corporate name of Bell Atlantic shall be as shall have been agreed by the Parties.

ARTICLE IV — REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF GTE

Except as expressly disclosed in the GTE Filed SEC Reports (as defined below) (including all exhibits referred to therein) or as set forth in the disclosure schedule delivered by GTE to Bell Atlantic on the date hereof (the "GTE Disclosure Schedule") (each section of which qualifies the correspondingly numbered representation and warranty or covenant as specified therein), GTE hereby represents and warrants to Bell Atlantic as follows:

SECTION 4.1 — *Organization and Qualification; Subsidiaries.* Each of GTE and each of its Significant Subsidiaries is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation or organization. Each of the GTE Subsidiaries which is not a Significant Subsidiary is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation or organization, except for such failure which, when taken together with all other such failures, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE. Each of GTE and its Subsidiaries has the

requisite corporate power and authority and any necessary governmental authority, franchise, license, certificate or permit to own, operate or lease the properties that it purports to own, operate or lease and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted, and is duly qualified as a foreign corporation to do business, and is in good standing, in each jurisdiction where the character of its properties owned, operated or leased or the nature of its activities makes such qualification necessary, except for such failure which, when taken together with all other such failures, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE.

SECTION 4.2 — *Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws.* GTE has heretofore furnished, or otherwise made available, to Bell Atlantic a complete and correct copy of the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws, each as amended to the date hereof, of GTE. Such Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws are in full force and effect. Neither GTE nor any of its Significant Subsidiaries is in violation of any of the provisions of its respective Certificate of Incorporation or, in any material respect, its Bylaws.

SECTION 4.3 — *Capitalization.* (a) The authorized capital stock of GTE consists of (i) 9,217,764 shares of preferred stock, par value \$50.00 per share, none of which are outstanding or reserved for issuance, (ii) 11,727,502 shares of preferred stock, no par value per share, none of which are outstanding and 700,000 of which have been reserved for issuance in accordance with the Rights Agreement (as defined below), and (iii) 2,000,000,000 shares of GTE Common Stock, of which, as of June 30, 1998, (A) 963,241,244 shares were issued and outstanding, (B) 25,658,980 shares were held in the treasury of GTE, (C) not more than 50,000,000 shares were issuable upon the exercise of options outstanding under the GTE option plans, and (D) 31,603,945 shares were reserved for issuance in connection with other GTE Plans (as defined in Section 4.11(b) below). Except for GTE Equity Rights issued to GTE employees in the ordinary course of business or, after the date hereof, as permitted by Section 6.2 hereof or pursuant to the Bell Atlantic Option Agreement, (i) since June 30, 1998, no shares of GTE Common Stock have been issued, except upon the exercise of options described in the immediately preceding sentence, and (ii) there are no outstanding GTE Equity Rights. For purposes of this Agreement, "GTE Equity Rights" shall mean subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments, agreements, conversion rights or other rights of any character (contingent or otherwise) to purchase or otherwise acquire any shares of the capital stock of GTE from GTE or any of GTE's Subsidiaries at any time, or upon the happening of any stated event, except for rights granted under the Rights Agreement, dated as of December 7, 1989 (the "GTE Rights Agreement"), between GTE and the Rights Agent (as defined therein), and the Bell Atlantic Option Agreement. Section 4.3 of the GTE Disclosure Schedule sets forth a complete and accurate list of certain information with respect to all outstanding GTE Equity Rights as of June 30, 1998.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 4.3 of the GTE Disclosure Schedule, pursuant to the Bell Atlantic Option Agreement, or, after the date hereof, as permitted by Section 6.2

hereof, there are no outstanding obligations of GTE or any of GTE's Subsidiaries to repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of capital stock of GTE.

(c) All of the issued and outstanding shares of GTE Common Stock are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

(d) All of the outstanding capital stock of each of GTE's Significant Subsidiaries, and all of the outstanding capital stock of GTE's Subsidiaries owned directly or indirectly by GTE, is duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. All of the outstanding capital stock of each of GTE's Significant Subsidiaries is owned by GTE free and clear of any liens, security interests, pledges, agreements, claims, charges or encumbrances. All of the outstanding capital stock of GTE's Subsidiaries owned directly or indirectly by GTE is owned free and clear of any liens, security interests, pledges, agreements, claims, charges or encumbrances, except where such liens, security interests, pledges, agreements, claims, charges or encumbrances would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE. Except as hereafter issued or entered into in accordance with Section 6.2 hereof, there are no existing subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments, agreements, conversion rights or other rights of any character (contingent or otherwise) to purchase or otherwise acquire from GTE or any of GTE's Subsidiaries at any time, or upon the happening of any stated event, any shares of the capital stock of any GTE Subsidiary, whether or not presently issued or outstanding (except for rights of first refusal to purchase interests in Subsidiaries which are not wholly owned by GTE), or any of GTE's direct or indirect interests in any Material Investment, and there are no outstanding obligations of GTE or any of GTE's Subsidiaries to repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of capital stock of any of GTE's Subsidiaries or securities related to any investments, other than such as would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE.

SECTION 4.4 — *Authority Relative to this Agreement.* GTE has the necessary corporate power and authority to enter into this Agreement and, subject to obtaining the requisite approval of the Merger Agreement by GTE's stockholders required by the NYBCL (the "GTE Stockholder Approval"), to perform its obligations hereunder. The execution and delivery of this Agreement by GTE, and the consummation by GTE of the transactions contemplated hereby, have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of GTE, subject to obtaining the GTE Stockholder Approval. This Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by GTE and, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery thereof by each of Bell Atlantic and Merger Subsidiary, constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of GTE, enforceable against it in accordance with its terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other laws relating to or affecting the rights and remedies of creditors generally and to general principles of equity (regardless of whether considered in a proceeding in equity or at law).

SECTION 4.5 — *No Conflict; Required Filings and Consents.* (a) Except as described in subsection (b) below, the execution and delivery of this Agreement by GTE do not, and the performance of this Agreement by GTE will not, (i) violate or conflict with the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws of GTE, (ii) conflict with or violate any law, regulation, court order, judgment or decree applicable to GTE or any of its Subsidiaries or by which any of their respective property or assets (including investments) is bound or affected, (iii) violate or conflict with the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws of any of GTE's Subsidiaries, (iv) result in any breach of or constitute a default (or an event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become a default) under, or give to others any rights of termination or cancellation of, or result in the creation of a lien or encumbrance on any of the properties or assets (including investments) of GTE or any of its Subsidiaries pursuant to, result in the loss of any material benefit under, or result in any modification or alteration of, or require the consent of any other party to, any contract, instrument, permit, license or franchise to which GTE or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or by which GTE, any of such Subsidiaries or any of their respective property or assets (including investments) is bound or affected, except, in the case of clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) above, for conflicts, violations, breaches, defaults, results or consents which, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE.

(b) Except for applicable requirements, if any, of state or foreign public utility commissions or laws or similar local or state or foreign regulatory bodies or laws, state or foreign antitrust or foreign investment laws and commissions, the Federal Communications Commission, stock exchanges upon which securities of GTE are listed, the Exchange Act, the premerger notification requirements of the HSR Act, filing and recordation of appropriate merger or other documents as required by the NYBCL and any filings required pursuant to any state securities or "blue sky" laws or the rules of any applicable stock exchanges, (i) neither GTE nor any of its Significant Subsidiaries is required to submit any notice, report or other filing with any federal, state, local or foreign government, any court, administrative, regulatory or other governmental agency, commission or authority or any non-governmental U.S. or foreign self-regulatory agency, commission or authority or any arbitral tribunal (each, a "Governmental Entity") in connection with the execution, delivery or performance of this Agreement and (ii) no waiver, consent, approval or authorization of any Governmental Entity is required to be obtained by GTE or any of its Significant Subsidiaries in connection with its execution, delivery or performance of this Agreement.

SECTION 4.6 — *SEC Filings; Financial Statements.* (a) GTE has filed all forms, reports and documents required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") since January 1, 1995, and has heretofore delivered or made available to Bell Atlantic, in the form filed with the SEC, together with any amendments thereto, its (i) Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995, 1996 and 1997, (ii) all proxy statements relating to GTE's meetings of stockholders (whether annual or special) held since January 1, 1995, (iii) Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March

31, 1998, and (iv) all other reports or registration statements filed by GTE with the SEC since January 1, 1995, including without limitation all Annual Reports on Form 11-K filed with respect to the GTE Plans (collectively, the "GTE SEC Reports", with such GTE SEC Reports filed with the SEC prior to the date hereof being referred to as "GTE Filed SEC Reports"). The GTE SEC Reports (i) were prepared substantially in accordance with the requirements of the 1933 Act or the Exchange Act (as defined in Section 10.4 hereof), as the case may be, and the rules and regulations promulgated under each of such respective acts, and (ii) did not at the time they were filed contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(b) The financial statements, including all related notes and schedules, contained in the GTE SEC Reports (or incorporated by reference therein) fairly present the consolidated financial position of GTE and its Subsidiaries as at the respective dates thereof and the consolidated results of operations and cash flows of GTE and its Subsidiaries for the periods indicated in accordance with GAAP applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved (except for changes in accounting principles disclosed in the notes thereto) and subject in the case of interim financial statements to normal year-end adjustments.

SECTION 4.7 — *Absence of Certain Changes or Events.* Except as disclosed in the GTE Filed SEC Reports and in Section 4.7 of the GTE Disclosure Schedule, since December 31, 1997, and except as permitted by this Agreement or consented to hereunder, GTE and its Subsidiaries have not incurred any material liability required to be disclosed on a balance sheet of GTE and its Subsidiaries or the footnotes thereto prepared in conformity with GAAP, except in the ordinary course of their businesses consistent with their past practices, and there has not been any change, or any event involving a prospective change, in the business, financial condition or results of operations of GTE or any of its Subsidiaries which has had, or is reasonably likely to have, a Material Adverse Effect on GTE, and GTE and its Subsidiaries have conducted their respective businesses in the ordinary course consistent with their past practices.

SECTION 4.8 — *Litigation.* There are no claims, actions, suits, proceedings or investigations pending or, to GTE's knowledge, threatened against GTE or any of its Subsidiaries, or any properties or rights of GTE or any of its Subsidiaries, by or before any Governmental Entity, except for those that are not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE or prevent, materially delay or intentionally delay the ability of GTE to consummate transactions contemplated hereby.

SECTION 4.9 — *Permits; No Violation of Law.* The businesses of GTE and its Subsidiaries are not being conducted in violation of any statute, law, ordinance, regulation, judgment, order or decree of any Governmental Entity (including any stock exchange or other self-regulatory body) ("Legal Requirements"), or in violation of any permits, franchises,

licenses, authorizations, certificates, variances, exemptions, orders, registrations or consents that are granted by any Governmental Entity (including any stock exchange or other self-regulatory body) ("Permits"), except for possible violations none of which, individually or in the aggregate, may reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE. No investigation or review by any Governmental Entity (including any stock exchange or other self-regulatory body) with respect to GTE or its Subsidiaries in relation to any alleged violation of law or regulation is pending or, to GTE's knowledge, threatened, nor has any Governmental Entity (including any stock exchange or other self-regulatory body) indicated an intention to conduct the same, except for such investigations which, if they resulted in adverse findings, would not reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on GTE. Except as set forth in Section 4.9 of the GTE Disclosure Schedule, neither GTE nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any cease and desist or other order, judgment, injunction or decree issued by, or is a party to any written Agreement, consent Agreement or memorandum of understanding with, or is a party to any commitment letter or similar undertaking to, or is subject to any order or directive by, or has adopted any board resolutions at the request of, any Governmental Entity that materially restricts the conduct of its business or which may reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE, nor has GTE or any of its Subsidiaries been advised that any Governmental Entity is considering issuing or requesting any of the foregoing. None of the representations and warranties made in this Section 4.9 are being made with respect to Environmental Laws.

SECTION 4.10 — *Joint Proxy Statement*. None of the information supplied or to be supplied by or on behalf of GTE for inclusion or incorporation by reference in the registration statement to be filed with the SEC by Bell Atlantic in connection with the issuance of shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock in the Merger (the "Registration Statement") will, at the time the Registration Statement becomes effective under the 1933 Act, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. None of the information supplied or to be supplied by or on behalf of GTE for inclusion or incorporation by reference in the joint proxy statement, in definitive form, relating to the meetings of GTE and Bell Atlantic stockholders to be held in connection with the Merger, or in the related proxy and notice of meeting, or soliciting material used in connection therewith (referred to herein collectively as the "Joint Proxy Statement") will, at the dates mailed to stockholders and at the times of the GTE stockholders' meeting and the Bell Atlantic stockholders' meeting, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The Registration Statement and the Joint Proxy Statement (except for information relating solely to Bell Atlantic) will comply as to form in all material respects with the provisions of the 1933 Act and the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

SECTION 4.11 — *Employee Matters; ERISA.* (a) Except where the failure to be true would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE, (i) each GTE Plan has been operated and administered in accordance with applicable law, including but not limited to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), and the Code, (ii) each GTE Plan intended to be "qualified" within the meaning of Section 401(a) of the Code is so qualified, (iii) except as required by COBRA, no GTE Plan provides death or medical benefits (whether or not insured), with respect to current or former employees of GTE or of any trade or business, whether or not incorporated, which together with GTE would be deemed a "single employer" within the meaning of Section 4001 of ERISA (a "GTE ERISA Affiliate"), beyond their retirement or other termination of service, (iv) no liability under Title IV of ERISA has been incurred by GTE or any GTE ERISA Affiliate that has not been satisfied in full, and no condition exists that presents a material risk to GTE or any GTE ERISA Affiliate of incurring any such liability (other than PBGC premiums), (v) all contributions or other amounts due from GTE or any GTE ERISA Affiliate with respect to each GTE Plan have been paid in full, (vi) neither GTE nor any GTE ERISA Affiliate has engaged in a transaction in connection with which GTE or any of its Subsidiaries could reasonably be expected to be subject to either a civil penalty assessed pursuant to Section 409 or 502(i) of ERISA or a tax imposed pursuant to Section 4975 or 4976 of the Code, (vii) to the best knowledge of GTE there are no pending, threatened or anticipated claims (other than routine claims for benefits) by, on behalf of or against any GTE Plan or any trusts related thereto, and (viii) neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will (A) result in any payment (including, without limitation, severance, unemployment compensation, golden parachute or otherwise) becoming due to any director or any employee of GTE or any of its Subsidiaries under any GTE Plan or otherwise, (B) materially increase any benefits otherwise payable under any GTE Plan or (C) result in any acceleration of the time of payment or vesting of any such benefits.

(b) For purposes of this Agreement, "GTE Plan" shall mean each deferred compensation, bonus or other incentive compensation, stock purchase, stock option or other equity compensation plan, program, agreement or arrangement; each severance or termination pay, medical, surgical, hospitalization, life insurance or other "welfare" plan, fund or program (within the meaning of section 3(1) of ERISA); each profit-sharing, stock bonus or other "pension" plan, fund or program (within the meaning of section 3(2) of ERISA); each employment, termination or severance agreement; and each other employee benefit plan, fund, program, agreement or arrangement, in each case, that is sponsored, maintained or contributed to or required to be contributed to by GTE or by any GTE ERISA Affiliate or to which GTE or any GTE ERISA Affiliate is party, whether written or oral, for the benefit of any employee or former employee of GTE or any GTE ERISA Affiliate.

SECTION 4.12 — *Labor Matters.* Neither GTE nor any of its Subsidiaries is the subject of any material proceeding asserting that it or any of its Subsidiaries has committed

an unfair labor practice or is seeking to compel it to bargain with any labor union or labor organization nor is there pending or, to the actual knowledge of its executive officers, threatened in writing, nor has there been for the past five years, any labor strike, dispute, walkout, work stoppage, slow-down or lockout involving it or any of its Subsidiaries, except in each case as is not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE.

SECTION 4.13 — *Environmental Matters.* Except for such matters that, individually or in the aggregate, are not reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE: (i) each of GTE and its Subsidiaries has complied with all applicable Environmental Laws (as defined below); (ii) the properties currently owned or operated by it or any of its Subsidiaries (including soils, groundwater, surface water, buildings or other structures) are not contaminated with any Hazardous Substances (as defined below); (iii) the properties formerly owned or operated by it or any of its Subsidiaries were not contaminated with Hazardous Substances during the period of ownership or operation by it or any of its Subsidiaries; (iv) neither it nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to liability for any Hazardous Substance disposal or contamination on any third party property; (v) neither it nor any Subsidiary has been associated with any release or threat of release of any Hazardous Substance; (vi) neither it nor any Subsidiary has received any notice, demand, letter, claim or request for information alleging that it or any of its Subsidiaries may be in violation of or liable under any Environmental Law (including any claims relating to electromagnetic fields or microwave transmissions); (vii) neither it nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any orders, decrees, injunctions or other arrangements with any Governmental Entity or is subject to any indemnity or other agreement with any third party relating to liability under any Environmental Law or relating to Hazardous Substances; and (viii) there are not circumstances or conditions involving it or any of its Subsidiaries that could reasonably be expected to result in any claims, liability, investigations, costs or restrictions on the ownership, use, or transfer of any of its properties pursuant to any Environmental Law.

As used herein and in Section 5.13, the term "Environmental Law" means any law relating to: (A) the protection, investigation or restoration of the environment, health, safety, or natural resources, (B) the handling, use, presence, disposal, release or threatened release of any Hazardous Substance or (C) noise, odor, wetlands, pollution, contamination or any injury or threat of injury to persons or property in connection with any Hazardous Substance.

As used herein and in Section 5.13, the term "Hazardous Substance" means any substance that is: listed, classified or regulated pursuant to any Environmental Law, including any petroleum product or by-product, asbestos-containing material, lead-containing paint or plumbing, polychlorinated biphenyls, radioactive materials or radon.

SECTION 4.14 — *Board Action; Vote Required; Applicability of Section 912.* (a) The Board of Directors of GTE has unanimously determined that the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Option Agreements are in the best interests of GTE and its stockholders and has resolved to recommend to such stockholders that they vote in favor thereof.

(b) The approval of the Merger Agreement by two-thirds of the votes of all outstanding shares entitled to vote thereon by all holders of GTE Common Stock is the only vote of the holders of any class or series of the capital stock of GTE required to approve this Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby. The provisions of Section 11.A of the Certificate of Incorporation of GTE will not apply to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Option Agreements.

(c) The provisions of Section 912 of the NYBCL will not, assuming the accuracy of the representations contained in Section 5.20 hereof (without giving effect to the knowledge qualification therein), apply to this Agreement or any of the transactions contemplated hereby.

SECTION 4.15 — *Opinions of Financial Advisors.* GTE has received the opinions of Goldman, Sachs & Co. ("Goldman Sachs"), and Salomon Smith Barney Inc. ("Salomon Smith Barney"), each dated July 27, 1998, to the effect that, as of such date, the Exchange Ratio is fair from a financial point of view to the holders of GTE Common Stock.

SECTION 4.16 — *Brokers.* Except for Goldman Sachs, Salomon Smith Barney and Chase Securities Inc., the arrangements with which have been disclosed to Bell Atlantic prior to the date hereof, which have been engaged by GTE, no broker, finder or investment banker is entitled to any brokerage, finder's, investment banking or other fee or commission in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Option Agreements based upon arrangements made by or on behalf of GTE or any of its Subsidiaries.

SECTION 4.17 — *Tax Matters.* Except as set forth in Section 4.17 of the GTE Disclosure Schedule:

(a) All material federal, state, local and foreign Tax Returns (as defined herein) required to have been filed by GTE or its Subsidiaries have been filed with the appropriate governmental authorities by the due date thereof including extensions;

(b) The Tax Returns referred to in subpart (a) of this Section 4.17 correctly and completely reflect all material Tax liabilities of GTE and its Subsidiaries required to be shown thereon;

(c) All material Taxes (as defined herein) shown as due on those Tax Returns referred to in subpart (a) of this Section 4.17 as well as any material foreign withholding

Taxes imposed on or in respect of any amounts paid to or by GTE or any of its Subsidiaries, whether or not such amounts or withholding Taxes are referred to or shown on any Tax Returns referred to in Section 4.17 (a) hereof, have been fully paid or adequately reflected as a liability on GTE's or its Subsidiaries' financial statements included in the GTE SEC Reports;

(d) With respect to any period for which Tax Returns have not yet been filed, or for which Taxes are not yet due or owing, GTE and its Subsidiaries have made due and sufficient accruals for such Taxes in their respective books and records and financial statements;

(e) Neither GTE nor any of its affiliates has taken, agreed to take or omitted to take any action that would prevent or impede the Merger from qualifying as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368 of the Code;

(f) No deficiencies for any Taxes have been proposed, asserted or assessed against GTE or any of its Subsidiaries that are not adequately reserved for under GAAP, except for deficiencies that individually or in the aggregate would not have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE;

(g) GTE is not aware of any material liens for Taxes upon any assets of GTE or any of its Subsidiaries apart from liens for Taxes not yet due and payable; and

(h) As used in this Agreement, "Taxes" shall include all (x) federal, state, local or foreign income, property, sales, excise, use, occupation, service, transfer, payroll, franchise, withholding and other taxes or similar governmental charges, fees, levies or other assessments including any interest, penalties or additions with respect thereto, (y) liability for the payment of any amounts of the type described in clause (x) as a result of being a member of an affiliated, consolidated, combined or unitary group, and (z) liability for the payment of any amounts as a result of being party to any tax sharing agreement or as a result of any express or implied obligation to indemnify any other person with respect to the payment of any amounts of the type described in clause (x) or (y). As used in this Agreement, "Tax Return" shall include any declaration, return, report, schedule, certificate, statement or other similar document (including relating or supporting information) required to be filed or, where none is required to be filed with a taxing authority, the statement or other document issued by a taxing authority in connection with any Tax, including any information return, claim for refund, amended return or declaration of estimated Tax.

SECTION 4.18 — *Intellectual Property; Year 2000.*

(a) As used in this Agreement, "GTE Intellectual Property" means all of the following which are necessary to conduct the business of GTE and its Subsidiaries as presently conducted or as currently proposed to be conducted: (i) trademarks, trade dress, service

marks, copyrights, logos, trade names, corporate names and all registrations and applications to register the same; (ii) patents and pending patent applications; (iii) all computer software programs, databases and compilations (collectively, "Computer Software"); (iv) all technology, know-how and trade secrets; and (v) all material licenses and agreements to which GTE or any of its Subsidiaries is a party which relate to any of the foregoing.

(b) GTE or its Subsidiaries owns or has the right to use, sell or license all GTE Intellectual Property, free and clear of all liens or encumbrances, and all registrations of GTE Intellectual Property are valid and enforceable and have been duly recorded and maintained, except, in each case, as would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE.

(c) To the knowledge of GTE, the conduct of GTE's and its Subsidiaries' business and the use of the GTE Intellectual Property does not materially infringe, violate or misuse any intellectual property rights or any other proprietary right of any person or give rise to any obligations to any person as a result of co-authorship, and neither GTE nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any notice, not satisfactorily resolved, of any claims or threats that GTE's or its Subsidiaries' use of any of the GTE Intellectual Property materially infringes, violates or misuses, or is otherwise in conflict with any intellectual property or proprietary rights of any third party or that any of the GTE Intellectual Property is invalid or unenforceable that would, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE.

(d) GTE and its Subsidiaries have used reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of their trade secrets and other confidential GTE Intellectual Property.

(e) GTE has undertaken a concerted effort to ensure that all of the Computer Software, computer firmware, computer hardware (whether general or special purpose), and other similar or related items of automated, computerized, and/or software system(s) that are to be used or relied on by GTE or by any of its Subsidiaries in the conduct of their respective businesses will not malfunction, will not cease to function, will not generate incorrect data, and will not provide incorrect results when processing, providing and/or receiving (i) date-related data into and between the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and (ii) date-related data in connection with any valid date in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. GTE reasonably believes that such effort will be successful.

SECTION 4.19 — Insurance. Except as set forth in Section 4.19 of the GTE Disclosure Schedule, each of GTE and each of its Significant Subsidiaries is, and has been continuously since January 1, 1987 (or such later date as such Significant Subsidiary was organized or acquired by GTE), insured with financially responsible insurers in such amounts and against such risks and losses as are customary for companies conducting the business as conducted by GTE and its Subsidiaries during such time period. Except as set forth in Section 4.19 of the GTE Disclosure Schedule, since January 1, 1995, neither GTE nor any of its

Subsidiaries has received notice of cancellation or termination with respect to any material insurance policy of GTE or its Subsidiaries. The insurance policies of GTE and its Subsidiaries are valid and enforceable policies.

SECTION 4.20 — *Ownership of Securities.* As of the date hereof, neither GTE nor, to GTE's knowledge, any of its affiliates or associates (as such terms are defined under the Exchange Act), (i) beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, or (ii) is party to any agreement, arrangement or understanding for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting or disposing of, in each case, shares of capital stock of Bell Atlantic, which in the aggregate represent 10% or more of the outstanding shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock (other than shares held by GTE Plans and the Bell Atlantic Option Agreement).

SECTION 4.21 — *Certain Contracts.* (a) All contracts described in Item 601(b)(10) of Regulation S-K to which GTE or its Subsidiaries is a party or may be bound ("GTE Contracts") have been filed as exhibits to, or incorporated by reference in, GTE's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1997. All GTE Contracts are valid and in full force and effect on the date hereof except to the extent they have previously expired in accordance with their terms or if the failure to be in full force and effect, individually and in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE. Neither GTE nor any of its Subsidiaries has violated any provision of, or committed or failed to perform any act which with or without notice, lapse of time or both would constitute a default under the provisions of, any GTE Contract, except in each case for those GTE Contracts which, individually and in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect on GTE.

(b) Set forth in Section 4.21 of the GTE Disclosure Schedule is a list of each contract, agreement or arrangement to which GTE or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or may be bound which is an arrangement limiting or restraining Bell Atlantic, GTE, any Bell Atlantic or GTE Subsidiary or any successor thereto from engaging or competing in any business which has, or could reasonably be expected to have in the foreseeable future, a Material Adverse Effect on GTE, or to GTE's knowledge, on Bell Atlantic.

SECTION 4.22 — *Rights Agreement.* (a) Neither Bell Atlantic nor Merger Subsidiary shall be deemed to be an Acquiring Person (as such term is defined in the Rights Agreement) and the Distribution Date (as defined in the Rights Agreement) shall not be deemed to occur and the Rights will not separate from GTE Common Stock, as a result of entering into this Agreement or the Option Agreements or consummating the Merger and/or the other transactions contemplated hereby or thereby.

(b) GTE has taken all necessary action with respect to all of the outstanding Rights (as defined in the Rights Agreement) so that, as of immediately prior to the Effective Time, as a result of entering into this Agreement or consummating the Merger and/or the other

transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Option Agreements, (i) neither GTE nor Bell Atlantic will have any obligations under the Rights or the Rights Agreement and (ii) the holders of the Rights will have no rights under the Rights or the Rights Agreement.

ARTICLE V — REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF BELL ATLANTIC

Except as expressly disclosed in the Bell Atlantic Filed SEC Reports (as defined below) (including all exhibits referred to therein) or as set forth in the disclosure schedule delivered by Bell Atlantic to GTE on the date hereof (the "Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule" and together with the GTE Disclosure Schedule, the "Disclosure Schedules") (each section of which qualifies the correspondingly numbered representation and warranty or covenant as specified therein), Bell Atlantic hereby represents and warrants to GTE as follows:

SECTION 5.1 — *Organization and Qualification; Subsidiaries.* Each of Bell Atlantic and each of its Significant Subsidiaries is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation or organization. Each of the Bell Atlantic Subsidiaries which is not a Significant Subsidiary is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation or organization, except for such failure which, when taken together with all other such failures, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic. Each of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries has the requisite corporate power and authority and any necessary governmental authority, franchise, license or permit to own, operate or lease the properties that it purports to own, operate or lease and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted, and is duly qualified as a foreign corporation to do business, and is in good standing, in each jurisdiction where the character of its properties owned, operated or leased or the nature of its activities makes such qualification necessary, except for such failure which, when taken together with all other such failures, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic.

SECTION 5.2 — *Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws.* Bell Atlantic has heretofore furnished, or otherwise made available, to GTE a complete and correct copy of the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws, each as amended to the date hereof, of Bell Atlantic. Such Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws are in full force and effect. Neither Bell Atlantic nor any of its Significant Subsidiaries is in violation of any of the provisions of its respective Certificate of Incorporation or, in any material respect, its Bylaws.

SECTION 5.3 — *Capitalization.* (a) The authorized capital stock of Bell Atlantic consists of (i) 250,000,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock, par value \$.10 per share, none of which are outstanding or reserved for issuance, and (ii) 2,250,000,000 shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock, of which, as of June 30, 1998, (A) 1,553,473,710 shares were issued

and outstanding, (B) 22,722,614 shares were held in the treasury of Bell Atlantic and (C) 80,392,512 shares were issuable upon the exercise of options outstanding under the Bell Atlantic option plans listed in Section 5.3 of the Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule. Except for Bell Atlantic Equity Rights issued to Bell Atlantic employees in the ordinary course of business or, after the date hereof, as permitted by Section 6.2 hereof or pursuant to the Bell Atlantic Option Agreement, (i) since June 30, 1998, no shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock have been issued, except upon the exercise of options and rights described in the immediately preceding sentence, and (ii) there are no outstanding Bell Atlantic Equity Rights. For purposes of this Agreement, "Bell Atlantic Equity Rights" shall mean subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments, agreements, conversion rights or other rights of any character (contingent or otherwise) to purchase or otherwise acquire, any shares of the capital stock of Bell Atlantic from Bell Atlantic or any of Bell Atlantic's Subsidiaries at any time, or upon the happening of any stated event, excluding the GTE Stock Option. Section 5.3 of the Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule sets forth a complete and accurate list of certain information with respect to all outstanding Bell Atlantic Equity Rights as of June 30, 1998.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of the Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule, pursuant to the GTE Stock Option or, after the date hereof, as permitted by Section 6.2 hereof, there are no outstanding obligations of Bell Atlantic or any of Bell Atlantic's Subsidiaries to repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of capital stock of Bell Atlantic.

(c) All of the issued and outstanding shares of Bell Atlantic Common Stock are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

(d) All of the outstanding capital stock of each of Bell Atlantic's Significant Subsidiaries, and all of the outstanding capital stock of Bell Atlantic's Subsidiaries owned directly or indirectly by Bell Atlantic, is duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. All of the outstanding capital stock of each of Bell Atlantic's Significant Subsidiaries is owned by Bell Atlantic free and clear of any liens, security interests, pledges, agreements, claims, charges or encumbrances. All of the outstanding capital stock of Bell Atlantic's Subsidiaries owned directly or indirectly by Bell Atlantic is owned free and clear of any liens, security interests, pledges, agreements, claims, charges or encumbrances, except where such liens, security interests, pledges, agreements, claims, charges or encumbrances would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic. Except as hereafter issued or entered into in accordance with Section 6.2 hereof, there are no existing subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments, agreements, conversion rights or other rights of any character (contingent or otherwise) to purchase or otherwise acquire from Bell Atlantic or any of Bell Atlantic's Subsidiaries at any time, or upon the happening of any stated event, any shares of the capital stock of any Bell Atlantic Subsidiary, whether or not presently issued or outstanding (except for rights of first refusal to purchase interests in Subsidiaries which are not wholly owned by Bell Atlantic), or any of GTE's direct or indirect interests in any Material Investment, and there are no outstanding obligations of Bell

Atlantic or any of Bell Atlantic's Subsidiaries to repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of capital stock of any of Bell Atlantic's Subsidiaries or securities related to any investments, other than such as would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on GTE.

SECTION 5.4 — *Authority Relative to this Agreement.* Bell Atlantic has the necessary corporate power and authority to enter into this Agreement and, subject to obtaining the requisite stockholder approval of the issuance (the "Stock Issuance") of Bell Atlantic Common Stock pursuant to the Merger Agreement and the Certificate Amendment (collectively, the "Bell Atlantic Stockholder Approval"), to perform its obligations hereunder. The execution and delivery of this Agreement by Bell Atlantic and the consummation by Bell Atlantic of the transactions contemplated hereby have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of Bell Atlantic, subject to obtaining the Bell Atlantic Stockholder Approval. This Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by Bell Atlantic and, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery thereof by the other Parties, constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of Bell Atlantic, enforceable against it in accordance with its terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other laws relating to or affecting the rights and remedies of creditors generally and to general principles of equity (regardless of whether considered in a proceeding in equity or at law).

SECTION 5.5 — *No Conflict; Required Filings and Consents.* (a) Except as described in subsection (b) below, the execution and delivery of this Agreement by Bell Atlantic do not, and the performance of this Agreement by Bell Atlantic will not, (i) violate or conflict with the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws of Bell Atlantic, (ii) conflict with or violate any law, regulation, court order, judgment or decree applicable to Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries or by which any of their respective property or assets (including investments) is bound or affected, (iii) violate or conflict with the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws of any of Bell Atlantic's Subsidiaries, or (iv) result in any breach of or constitute a default (or an event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become a default) under, or give to others any rights of termination or cancellation of, or result in the creation of a lien or encumbrance on any of the properties or assets (including investments) of Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries pursuant to, result in the loss of any material benefit under, or result in any modification or alteration of, or require the consent of any other party to, any contract, instrument, permit, license or franchise to which Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or by which Bell Atlantic, any of such Subsidiaries or any of their respective property or assets (including investments) is bound or affected, except, in the case of clauses (ii), (iii) and (iv) above, for conflicts, violations, breaches, defaults, results or consents which, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic.

(b) Except for applicable requirements, if any, of state or foreign public utility commissions or laws or similar local or state foreign regulatory bodies or laws, state or foreign antitrust or foreign investment laws and commissions, the Federal Communications

Commission, stock exchanges upon which the securities of Bell Atlantic are listed, the Exchange Act, the premerger notification requirements of the HSR Act, filing and recordation of appropriate merger or other documents as required by the NYBCL and any filings required pursuant to any state securities or "blue sky" laws or the rules of any applicable stock exchanges, (i) neither Bell Atlantic nor any of its Significant Subsidiaries is required to submit any notice, report or other filing with any Governmental Entity in connection with the execution, delivery or performance of this Agreement and (ii) no waiver, consent, approval or authorization of any Governmental Entity is required to be obtained by Bell Atlantic or any of its Significant Subsidiaries in connection with its execution, delivery or performance of this Agreement

SECTION 5.6 — *SEC Filings; Financial Statements.* (a) Bell Atlantic has filed all forms, reports and documents required to be filed with the SEC since January 1, 1995, and has heretofore delivered or made available to GTE, in the form filed with the SEC, together with any amendments thereto, its (i) Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995, 1996 and 1997, (ii) all proxy statements relating to Bell Atlantic's meetings of stockholders (whether annual or special) held since January 1, 1995, (iii) Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 1998, and (iv) all other reports or registration statements filed by Bell Atlantic with the SEC since January 1, 1995, including without limitation all Annual Reports on Form 11-K filed with respect to the Bell Atlantic Plans (collectively, the "Bell Atlantic SEC Reports", with such Bell Atlantic SEC Reports filed with the SEC prior to the date hereof being referred to as "Bell Atlantic Filed SEC Reports"). The Bell Atlantic SEC Reports (i) were prepared substantially in accordance with the requirements of the 1933 Act or the Exchange Act, as the case may be, and the rules and regulations promulgated under each of such respective acts, and (ii) did not at the time they were filed contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(b) The financial statements, including all related notes and schedules, contained in the Bell Atlantic SEC Reports (or incorporated by reference therein) fairly present the consolidated financial position of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries as at the respective dates thereof and the consolidated results of operations and cash flows of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries for the periods indicated in accordance with GAAP applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved (except for changes in accounting principles disclosed in the notes thereto) and subject in the case of interim financial statements to normal year-end adjustments.

SECTION 5.7 — *Absence of Certain Changes or Events.* Except as disclosed in the Bell Atlantic Filed SEC Reports and in Section 5.7 of the Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule, since December 31, 1997, and except as permitted by this Agreement or consented to hereunder, Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries have not incurred any material liability required

to be disclosed on a balance sheet of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries or the footnotes thereto prepared in conformity with GAAP, except in the ordinary course of their businesses consistent with their past practices, and there has not been any change, or any event involving a prospective change, in the business, financial condition or results of operations of Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries which has had, or is reasonably likely to have, a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic, and Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries have conducted their respective businesses in the ordinary course consistent with their past practices.

SECTION 5.8 — *Litigation.* There are no claims, actions, suits, proceedings or investigations pending or, to Bell Atlantic's knowledge, threatened against Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries, or any properties or rights of Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries, by or before any Governmental Entity, except for those that are not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic or prevent, materially delay or intentionally delay the ability of GTE to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby.

SECTION 5.9 — *Permits; No Violation of Law.* The businesses of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries are not being conducted in violation of any Legal Requirements or in violation of any Permits, except for possible violations none of which, individually or in the aggregate, may reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic. No investigation or review by any Governmental Entity (including any stock exchange or other self-regulatory body) with respect to Bell Atlantic or its Subsidiaries in relation to any alleged violation of law or regulation is pending or, to Bell Atlantic's knowledge, threatened, nor has any Governmental Entity (including any stock exchange or other self-regulatory body) indicated an intention to conduct the same, except for such investigations which, if they resulted in adverse findings, would not reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic. Except as set forth in Section 5.9 of the Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule, neither Bell Atlantic nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any cease and desist or other order, judgment, injunction or decree issued by, or is a party to any written Agreement, consent Agreement or memorandum of understanding with, or is a party to any commitment letter or similar undertaking to, or is subject to any order or directive by, or has adopted any board resolutions at the request of, any Governmental Entity that materially restricts the conduct of its business or which may reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic, nor has Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries been advised that any Governmental Entity is considering issuing or requesting any of the foregoing. None of the representations and warranties made in this Section 5.9 are being made with respect to Environmental Laws.

SECTION 5.10 — *Joint Proxy Statement.* None of the information supplied or to be supplied by or on behalf of Bell Atlantic for inclusion or incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement will, at the time the Registration Statement becomes effective under the 1933 Act, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact

required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. None of the information supplied or to be supplied by or on behalf of Bell Atlantic for inclusion or incorporation by reference in the Joint Proxy Statement will, at the dates mailed to stockholders and at the times of the GTE stockholders' meeting and the Bell Atlantic stockholders' meeting, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The Registration Statement and the Joint Proxy Statement (except for information relating solely to GTE) will comply as to form in all material respects with the provisions of the 1933 Act and the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

SECTION 5.11 — *Employee Matters; ERISA.* (a) Except where the failure to be true would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic, (i) each Bell Atlantic Plan has been operated and administered in accordance with applicable law, including but not limited to ERISA and the Code, (ii) each Bell Atlantic Plan intended to be "qualified" within the meaning of Section 401(a) of the Code is so qualified, (iii) except as required by COBRA, no Bell Atlantic Plan provides death or medical benefits (whether or not insured), with respect to current or former employees of Bell Atlantic or of any trade or business, whether or not incorporated, which together with Bell Atlantic would be deemed a "single employer" within the meaning of Section 4001 of ERISA (a "Bell Atlantic ERISA Affiliate"), beyond their retirement or other termination of service, (iv) no liability under Title IV of ERISA has been incurred by Bell Atlantic or any Bell Atlantic ERISA Affiliate that has not been satisfied in full, and no condition exists that presents a material risk to Bell Atlantic or any Bell Atlantic ERISA Affiliate of incurring any such liability (other than PBGC premiums), (v) all contributions or other amounts due from Bell Atlantic or any Bell Atlantic ERISA Affiliate with respect to each Bell Atlantic Plan have been paid in full, (vi) neither Bell Atlantic nor any Bell Atlantic ERISA Affiliate has engaged in a transaction in connection with which Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries could reasonably be expected to be subject to either a civil penalty assessed pursuant to Section 409 or 502(i) of ERISA or a tax imposed pursuant to Section 4975 or 4976 of the Code, (vii) to the best knowledge of Bell Atlantic there are no pending, threatened or anticipated claims (other than routine claims for benefits) by, on behalf of or against any Bell Atlantic Plan or any trusts related thereto, and (viii) neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will (A) result in any payment (including, without limitation, severance, unemployment compensation, golden parachute or otherwise) becoming due to any director or any employee of Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries under any Bell Atlantic Plan or otherwise, (B) materially increase any benefits otherwise payable under any Bell Atlantic Plan or (C) result in any acceleration of the time of payment or vesting of any such benefits.

(b) For purposes of this Agreement, "Bell Atlantic Plan" shall mean each deferred compensation, bonus or other incentive compensation, stock purchase, stock option

or other equity compensation plan, program, agreement or arrangement, each severance or termination pay, medical, surgical, hospitalization, life insurance or other "welfare" plan, fund or program (within the meaning of section 3(1) of ERISA); each profit-sharing, stock bonus or other "pension" plan, fund or program (within the meaning of section 3(2) of ERISA); each employment, termination or severance agreement; and each other employee benefit plan, fund, program, agreement or arrangement, in each case, that is sponsored, maintained or contributed to or required to be contributed to by Bell Atlantic or by any Bell Atlantic ERISA Affiliate or to which Bell Atlantic or any Bell Atlantic ERISA Affiliate is party, whether written or oral, for the benefit of any employee or former employee of Bell Atlantic or any Bell Atlantic ERISA Affiliate.

SECTION 5.12 — *Labor Matters.* Neither Bell Atlantic nor any of its Subsidiaries is the subject of any material proceeding asserting that it or any of its Subsidiaries has committed an unfair labor practice or is seeking to compel it to bargain with any labor union or labor organization nor is there pending or, to the actual knowledge of its executive officers, threatened in writing, nor has there been for the past five years, any labor strike, dispute, walkout, work stoppage, slow-down or lockout involving it or any of its Subsidiaries, except in each case as is not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic.

SECTION 5.13 — *Environmental Matters.* Except for such matters that, individually or in the aggregate, are not reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic: (i) each of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries has complied with all applicable Environmental Laws (as defined below); (ii) the properties currently owned or operated by it or any of its Subsidiaries (including soils, groundwater, surface water, buildings or other structures) are not contaminated with any Hazardous Substances (as defined below); (iii) the properties formerly owned or operated by it or any of its Subsidiaries were not contaminated with Hazardous Substances during the period of ownership or operation by it or any of its Subsidiaries; (iv) neither it nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to liability for any Hazardous Substance disposal or contamination on any third party property; (v) neither it nor any Subsidiary has been associated with any release or threat of release of any Hazardous Substance; (vi) neither it nor any Subsidiary has received any notice, demand, letter, claim or request for information alleging that it or any of its Subsidiaries may be in violation of or liable under any Environmental Law (including any claims relating to electromagnetic fields or microwave transmissions); (vii) neither it nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any orders, decrees, injunctions or other arrangements with any Governmental Entity or is subject to any indemnity or other agreement with any third party relating to liability under any Environmental Law or relating to Hazardous Substances; and (viii) there are not circumstances or conditions involving it or any of its Subsidiaries that could reasonably be expected to result in any claims, liability, investigations, costs or restrictions on the ownership, use, or transfer of any of its properties pursuant to any Environmental Law.

No representation is made by Bell Atlantic in this Section 5.13 for which neither Bell Atlantic nor any of its Subsidiaries is (or would be, if a claim were brought in a formal proceeding) a named defendant, but as to which Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries may be liable for an allocable share of any judgment rendered pursuant to the POR. No representation is made by Bell Atlantic in subsection (i) of this Section 5.13 as to properties owned, leased or operated by AT&T or any of its Subsidiaries except for such properties which are, or at any time since November 1, 1983 were, owned, leased or operated by Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries.

SECTION 5.14 — *Board Action; Vote Required.* (a) The Board of Directors of Bell Atlantic has unanimously determined that the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Option Agreements are in the best interests of Bell Atlantic and its stockholders and has resolved to recommend to such stockholders that they vote in favor thereof.

(b) The approval of the Certificate Amendment by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by all holders of Bell Atlantic Common Stock and the approval of the Stock Issuance pursuant thereto by a majority of the votes cast thereon, provided that the total votes cast thereon represents over 50% in interest of all securities of Bell Atlantic entitled to vote thereon, are the only votes of the holders of any class or series of the capital stock of Bell Atlantic required to approve this Agreement, the Merger, the Certificate Amendment, the Stock Issuance and the other transactions contemplated hereby.

SECTION 5.15 — *Opinions of Financial Advisors.* Bell Atlantic has received the opinions of Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. ("Bear Stearns") and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch"), each dated July 27, 1998, to the effect that, as of such date, the Exchange Ratio is fair from a financial point of view to the holders of Bell Atlantic Common Stock.

SECTION 5.16 — *Brokers.* Except for Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the arrangements with which have been disclosed to GTE prior to the date hereof, which have been engaged by Bell Atlantic, no broker, finder or investment banker is entitled to any brokerage, finder's, investment banking or other fee or commission in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Option Agreements based upon arrangements made by or on behalf of Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries.

SECTION 5.17 — *Tax Matters.* Except as set forth in Section 5.17 of the Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule:

(a) All material federal, state, local and foreign Tax Returns required to have been filed by Bell Atlantic or its Subsidiaries have been filed with the appropriate governmental authorities by the due date thereof including extensions;

(b) The Tax Returns referred to in subpart (a) of this Section 5.17 correctly and completely reflect all material Tax liabilities of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries required to be shown thereon;

(c) All material Taxes shown as due on those Tax Returns referred to in subpart (a) of this Section 5.17, as well as any material foreign withholding Taxes imposed on or in respect of any amounts paid to or by Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries, whether or not such amounts or withholding Taxes are referred to or shown on any Tax Returns referred to in Section 5.17 (a) hereof, have been fully paid or adequately reflected as a liability on Bell Atlantic's or its Subsidiaries' financial statements included in the Bell Atlantic SEC Reports;

(d) With respect to any prior period for which Tax Returns have not yet been filed, or for which Taxes are not yet due or owing, Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries have made due and sufficient accruals for such Taxes in their respective books and records and financial statements;

(e) Neither Bell Atlantic nor any of its affiliates has taken, agreed to take or omitted to take any action that would prevent or impede the Merger from qualifying as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368 of the Code;

(f) No deficiencies for any Taxes have been proposed, asserted or assessed against Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries that are not adequately reserved for under GAAP, except for deficiencies that individually or in the aggregate would not have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic; and

(g) Bell Atlantic is not aware of any material liens for Taxes upon any assets of Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries apart from liens for Taxes not yet due and payable.

SECTION 5.18 — *Intellectual Property.*

(a) As used in this Agreement, "Bell Atlantic Intellectual Property" means all of the following which are necessary to conduct the business of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries as presently conducted or as currently proposed to be conducted: (i) trademarks, trade dress, service marks, copyrights, logos, trade names, corporate names and all registrations and applications to register the same; (ii) patents and pending patent applications; (iii) Computer Software; (iv) all technology, know-how and trade secrets; and (v) all material licenses and agreements to which Bell Atlantic or any of its Subsidiaries is a party which relate to any of the foregoing.

(b) Bell Atlantic or its Subsidiaries owns or has the right to use, sell or license all Bell Atlantic Intellectual Property, free and clear of all liens or encumbrances, and all registrations of Bell Atlantic Intellectual Property are valid and enforceable and have been

duly recorded and maintained, except, in each case, as would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic.

(c) To the knowledge of Bell Atlantic, the conduct of Bell Atlantic's and its Subsidiaries' business and the use of the Bell Atlantic Intellectual Property does not materially infringe, violate or misuse any intellectual property rights or any other proprietary right of any person or give rise to any obligations to any person as a result of co-authorship, and neither Bell Atlantic nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any notice, not satisfactorily resolved, of any claims or threats that Bell Atlantic's or its Subsidiaries' use of any of the Bell Atlantic Intellectual Property materially infringes, violates or misuses, or is otherwise in conflict with any intellectual property or proprietary rights of any third party or that any of the Bell Atlantic Intellectual Property is invalid or unenforceable that would, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on Bell Atlantic.

(d) Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries have used reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of their trade secrets and other confidential Bell Atlantic Intellectual Property.

(e) Bell Atlantic has undertaken a concerted effort to ensure that all of the Computer Software, computer firmware, computer hardware (whether general or special purpose), and other similar or related items of automated, computerized, and/or software system(s) that are to be used or relied on by Bell Atlantic or by any of its Subsidiaries in the conduct of their respective businesses will not malfunction, will not cease to function, will not generate incorrect data, and will not provide incorrect results when processing, providing and/or receiving (i) date-related data into and between the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and (ii) date-related data in connection with any valid date in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Bell Atlantic reasonably believes that such effort will be successful.

SECTION 5.19 — Insurance. Except as set forth in Section 5.19 of the Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule, each of Bell Atlantic and each of its Significant Subsidiaries is, and has been continuously since January 1, 1987 (or such later date as such Significant Subsidiary was organized or acquired by Bell Atlantic), insured with financially responsible insurers in such amounts and against such risks and losses as are customary for companies conducting the business as conducted by Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries during such time period. Except as set forth in Section 5.19 of the Bell Atlantic Disclosure Schedule, since January 1, 1995, neither Bell Atlantic nor any of its Subsidiaries has received notice of cancellation or termination with respect to any material insurance policy of Bell Atlantic or its Subsidiaries. The insurance policies of Bell Atlantic and its Subsidiaries are valid and enforceable policies.

SECTION 5.20 — Ownership of Securities. As of the date hereof, neither Bell Atlantic nor, to Bell Atlantic's knowledge, any of its affiliates or associates (as such terms are defined under the Exchange Act), (a) (i) beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, or (ii) is party to any agreement, arrangement or understanding for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting or